

**REMARKS**

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action referenced above. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 2-7 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1, 8-11, and 13-16 have been cancelled. Claims 17 and 18 have been added. The amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure. No new matter has been introduced.

Assignee submits that cancellation of subject matter above is without prejudice as the same or similar subject matter is intended to be pursued in a Continuation Application based on the present application.

**Allowable subject matter**

Assignee thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4, 8-11, and 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Assignee has amended claim 2 into independent format. According, Assignee submits that amended claim 2 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3-6 are similarly is in condition for allowance due at least to their dependence on independent claim 2.

Assignee has amended independent claim 7 to incorporate the limitations from dependent claims 8-11. According, Assignee submits that amended claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claim 18 is similarly is in condition for allowance due at least to its dependence on independent claim 7.

Assignee has amended independent claim 12 to incorporate the limitations from dependent claims 13-16. According, Assignee submits that amended claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claim 17 is similarly is in condition for allowance due at least to its dependence on independent claim 12.

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**Claim rejections – 35 USC §103(a)**

Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,057), in view of Bell (U.S. Patent No. 4,748,514).

As noted above, claims 5, 6, 7, and 12 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, so need not be discussed further.

It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the cited references for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient. Likewise, it is noted that the Assignee's failure to comment directly upon any of the positions asserted by the Examiner in the office action does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions.

**Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

**Invitation for a Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, James J. Lynch, at (503) 439-6500 if there remains any issue with allowance.

**Additional fees**

Any fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this amendment are enclosed herein; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,  
Attorney for Assignee

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